

Responding to the Ukraine Crisis – The Diocese of St Albans & the Parish of Harpenden

The Diocese of St Albans is taking steps to provide assistance to Ukrainian refugees. Luton Airport is an important arrival point for many of these refugees. The crisis of refugees while immediate will also be for some time to come.

This leaflet sets out the diocesan scheme and how our Parish plans to support it. The scheme will run parallel to the government schemes. The Diocese is providing three means to support refugees:

1. **Financial support** – a diocesan fund for refugees who have limited financial means or may need one off or temporary financial assistance. *Please see below.*
2. **Accommodation support** – with the Diocese, we will set up a database of accommodation for refugees who arrive without accommodation arranged either by family, friends or sponsorship. *A Parish application form is attached.*
3. **Offers of supportive services** - accommodation will not be the only help needed and therefore, with the diocese, we will help set up a database of other offers of support – *you can provide us with your details, as below.*

As a Parish we have created a **Parish Support Group** to help with (2) and (3) above – that is, to administer the refugee accommodation our parishioners wish to offer and to help provide support to the hosts and the refugees who come into our Parish.

1. Financial support

The diocesan fund is for refugees who have limited financial means or may need one off or temporary financial assistance. Should it turn out to be not, or only partially needed, any surplus will be sent to the Christian Aid Ukraine Appeal. Please note that this fund is for support of refugees who come to our diocese.

If you are a UK taxpayer please consider filling in a [Gift Aid declaration](#). This will increase your gift by 25p for every £1 given, at no extra cost to you or us.

Donations to the diocesan fund can be made in two ways:

By bank transfer:

Barclays Bank Account Name: The St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance
Sort Code: 20-05-03
Account Number: 20776041
Reference Code: 2103161

By cheque: please make your cheque payable to “**The St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance**”.

Cheques can be sent direct or left in the **Parish Office**, in an envelope clearly marked “Ukraine Diocesan Appeal”. In both cases the cheque needs to be made payable to: The St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance.

If sending direct, please send to: Glyn Barker, Finance Director, 41 Holywell Hill, St. Albans AL1 1HE

If you wish to donate directly to relief for those in Ukraine, please consider giving to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) appeal: <https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

2. Accommodation Support

If you are interested in offering accommodation under the Diocesan scheme:

- You may wish to discuss the scheme with a member of the 'Parish Support Group', which has been created to facilitate our activities: the names of the Group members are listed below.
- **We ask you to complete the attached Parish application form.**
- Refugees fleeing Ukraine are vulnerable. *Please note that all parishioners offering accommodation to refugees will be subject to safeguarding checks by both the Parish and the Diocese.*
 - Ideally, hosts will already have a clear Enhanced DBS check, completed within the last five years, relating to another volunteer role within the Parish.
 - If not, DBS checks will be required. Additional DBS checks will be needed for all host family members (aged 16 years or over) residing in the property.
 - In addition to safeguarding checks, all adult hosts will be asked to complete safeguarding training, which is available online.
 - There will be regular meetings between the hosts, incumbent and/or parish safeguarding officer (or designated associate) throughout the accommodation period.
 - Further information regarding safeguarding may be found here: [St Albans Diocese: Safeguarding notes regarding hosting refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine](#)
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3. Offering supportive services

Once refugees have arrived, they are likely to need various kinds of support – transporting; language; pastoral and buddying; chaperoning to public, educational and health services; etc. **If you are interested in providing support, please email parishsupportgroup@parishofharpندن.org with the following information:**

- Your full name and address; mobile phone number; email address.
- The name & email address of a personal referee.
- Which Church you normally worship at.
- Which services you can provide.
- How many hours per week you are able to offer your services.
- Your current DBS status & date of any certificate.

Parish Support Group - you may wish to discuss your offer of support with the following:

St. Nicholas: Chloe Cooper; Jen McGrandle; Michelle McCulloch; Rachel Pepperrell; Jackie Agg.

All Saints: Tony Gilbert.

St. Mary's: Jacqueline Clayton; Kevin Featherstone; Maureen Lamburn.

April 2022

Diocese of St. Albans / Parish of Harpenden: Offer of Accommodation Form for Ukrainian refugees

1. Your full name (block CAPITALS)

2. Your full address (where accommodation is offered):

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3. Your mobile phone number:

4. At which Church do you normally worship? (please circle)

St. Nicholas'

All Saints'

St. Mary's

5. Your email address:

6. Have you got a Parish of Harpenden DBS certificate? YES NO (circle)

- If so, when is it dated?

7. Your referee - the name of someone who can provide a confidential letter of reference to support your application:

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8. Your referee email address:

.....@.....

9. For how many people are you offering accommodation:

- Number of people in total:
- Number of men:
- Number of women:
- Number of children:

10. Please describe the accommodation:

11. How many bedrooms are you offering?.....

12. How many people currently live at the property?

- Number of men:
- Number of women:
- Number of children (17 or under):

13. Are there pets at the property? YES NO (please circle)

- If so, please list all pets:

14. From when are you offering the accommodation?

Date:

15. For how many months are you offering the accommodation?

16. Are you happy for the above information to be passed over to third parties who are helping match Ukrainians with accommodation offers, including the Airport Chaplaincy or other agencies? (please circle)

YES

NO

PLEASE PASS THIS FORM TO: Canon Rev. Dennis Stamps; Rev. James Brown; Rev. Sally Goodson; to the Parish Office (placing it in a sealed envelope marked 'Ukrainian Refugee Scheme'); or by email to: parishsupportgroup@parishofharpenden.org

The Parish Support Group will consider all applications carefully, in accordance with the criteria and in the light of the evolving needs, and all applications will be acknowledged in writing.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer / Deputy Safeguarding Officer or a designated associate will visit prospective host accommodation by prior arrangement.

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